farmers, whose land is acquired are made active participants in the industrial growth under SEZs;

(c) whether Government would consider to amend SEZ Act, to make farmers' participation mandatory in the SEZ scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The minimum land area requirment for sector specific Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for Electronic Hardware and Information Technology including Information Technology Enabled Services is 10 Hectares and as such of the 234 formal approvals for SEZ, where land possession is a mandatory requirement, 147 approvals were for this sector while 5 approvals were given for the Services sector and 92 approvals have been given for the manufacturing sector (39.32%). However, of the 162 in-principle approvals, 121 approvals are for the manufacturing sector (74.69%).

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development is currently formulating a revised National Rehabilitation Policy 2007 with the objective to minimize displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least displacing alternatives, ensure adequate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the displaced persons. As and when the new policy is implemented, it will apply to acquisition of land for industrial projects including SEZs.

Production and export of leather from Tamil Nadu

2453. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of leather produced and exported from Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the State's production and export in the country's total production and export;

(c) the amount allocated for 2007-08 for further development of leather industry in the State;

(d) whether Government propose to initiate any steps for the development of leather industry in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per available information details are as under:

Subject	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Value of finished leather exported from Tamil Nadu (FOB value Rs. in Crore)	1549.63	1603.59	1596.70
Percentage share of Tamil Nadu in total export of finished leather from country	59%	57.22%	57.15%
Finished Leather production in Tamil Nadu (approximate in billion square feet)	0.856	0.943	1.2
Percentage share of Tamil Nadu in total finished leather produced in country	50.35%	52.38%	60.00%

(c) to (e) During the financial year 2006-07 an allocation of Rs. 43.12 Crores has been made for Tamil Nadu under 'Assistance to States for Developing Export infrastructure and Allied Activities' (ASIDE) scheme, for taking up export oriented infrastructure development projects which *inter-alia* includes infrastructure projects for leather sector also. Assistance has also been provided under Indian Leather Development Programme for setting up Leather Footwear Complex and Footwear Component Park.

Rising trade deficit

†2454. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to excessive imports as compared to exports during April to January in 2006-07 the trade deficit amount has increased, in comparison to the corresponding period in the last year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.